

## First United States Troops in Detroit

Address: Hart Plaza

Local

State v 8/23/56

State Marker

National



Painting in the Water Board Building showing Colonel John Francis Hamtramck claiming possession of Detroit from the British on July 11, 1796.

### **Historic Overview:**

*Located approximately at the southwest corner of Griswold and Atwater Streets in the spot where a company of the First U. S. A. Infantry came ashore to take possession of Detroit as United States Territory. **July 11, 1796** -- Sixty-five U.S. troops take control of Detroit. Army Capt. Moses Porter raises the American flag. Detroit is now part of the United States. On **July 13**, Col. John Hamtramck, first commander of troops in Detroit, arrives. Hamtramck, 38, is 5-foot-5, has a temper and is big on discipline.*

Text as written on Michigan Historical Marker.

**JULY 11, 1796.** *U.S. regulars under the command of Lt. Colonel John F. Hamtramck enter Detroit and replace the British Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes. The ceremony comes thirteen years after the signing of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the American Revolution. The delay has been caused by British reluctance to abandon their center of trade and power in the Ohio River Valley. As recently as 1791 the British included Michigan in their governmental reorganization of Canada. The following year, Michigan residents voted in their first election and elected three Detroiters to Ontario's provincial assembly. To thwart United States development of the Great Lakes area, the British have been supplying the Indians with arms. Two U.S. military efforts to subdue the Indians ended in disaster before General "Mad" Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794, near present-day Toledo, Ohio. Wayne's success prompted the British to evacuate the northwestern forts, opening the way for Hamtramck's troops. In 1805 the Michigan Territory will be organized.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.michiganhistory.org/michinfo/briefhis/wayne.html>

